

are taking control here. Now imagine for a minute, imagine for a minute this, that the University did not have to go through the Legislature for any portion of its budget. Imagine they didn't have to come here for their budget money. Imagine instead they simply levied their own tax, whatever they wanted, they spent their money and then they simply levied their tax. Do you think there would be budget cuts occurring now? Do you think the budget wouldn't be 16 or 18 percent higher just exactly as they've proposed? It would be, and that is what is occurring at the school level. That is exactly what is occurring. The spending and the taxation are embodied in one person, one entity. For the first time you have a check and a balance on the system. We say how much is available, and then we'll set up a system to say if you are going to spend more than that you better figure out how to get it. It is the first controlled system on spending in education that has ever been imposed. What does that contrast with? In other words it is a real tax savings system, ultimately. That contrasts with the system that was brought to you by the Governor, and by the education people, the teacher's stipend system, where we put in \$200 million and it is going to cost a minimum of \$1 billion, total, which means another \$800 or \$900 million on property taxes. That was a system that was offered as an alternative here, that you killed here a couple of years ago. That is why the education people, incredible as it sounds, are willing to vote to remove this funding system because for the first time it is control by a body over the system. Now that is why I am saying you better keep this. The penny increase will truly be a shift from one thing, property, to another, sales and income. But most important, as I say, is control over the spending for the first time ever because you have recognized in that little amendment that it is a state responsibility, that the maximum amount that is going to be obtained from property is this amount, and we control over on this end, the Legislature, for the first time ever, how much is going to be spent.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR DECAMP: That is the essence of that amendment. So I urge you not to suspend the rules. You laid into position the cornerstones of control for the first time, and control over excessive property taxation, and that is why the education people, and the Governor, and others are determined to get rid of it. It is not because of the tax